

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 NEA-09 EA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CIEP-01 OMB-01 /096 W

----- 072280

P R 171750Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7333

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00877

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UG, US

SUBJECT: US-UGANDAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

1. THE FRG FONOFF HAS PASSED US THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM  
FROM THE FRG AMBASSADOR IN KAMPALA.

2. BEGIN TEXT

ON JAN. 13, 1975 PRESIDENT AMIN ASKED ME (FRG AMBASSA-  
DOR ELLERKMAN) TO TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING OFFICIAL AND  
CONFIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO THE US GOVERNMENT. THE

MESSAGE WAS GIVEN TO ME IN PRIVATE.

3. AMIN WOULD LIKE TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH  
THE UNITED STATES, AND HE INVITES THE USG TO RE-OPEN  
ITS EMBASSY IN KAMPALA AT ITS EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.  
AMIN STATES THAT HE HAS NO HARD FEELINGS AGAINST  
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AMERICANS, AND THAT ON THE CONTRARY, HE WISHES TO

HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND THE US. AMIN SAID THAT THE DIFFICULTIES ON MATTERS STANDING BETWEEN THE US AND UGANDA SHOULD AND COULD BE CLEARED UP EITHER THROUGH THE UGANDAN UN REP IN NEW YORK OR THROUGH THE EMBASSY OF THE FRG IN KAMPALA.

4. PRESIDENT AMIN ASSURED ME THAT HE WAS NO COMMUNIST AND WOULD NEVER ALLOW UGANDA TO COME UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF COMMUNISTS. HE SAID HE HAD WATCHED CLOSELY THE CHINESE EXPERIMENTS IN TANZANIA WHICH HAD OBVIOUSLY FAILED BECAUSE THEY WERE BASED ON FORCE AGAINST THE PEOPLE; HE ADDED THAT HE IS FULLY INFORMED OF THE EXPERIENCES THE EGYPTIANS HAVE HAD AND ARE HAVING WITH THE SOVIETS. AMIN STATED HE WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP THE UGANDAN ECONOMY ON WESTERN PRINCIPLES (I.E. ON PRIVATE OWNERSHIP), COOPERATIVES, AND SELF-RELIANCE. HE SAID THAT IN 1972 HE WAS FORCED TO TURN TO THE SOVIET UNION TO OBTAIN SUPPLIES AND ADDITIONAL WEAPONS FOR THE UGANDAN ARMY. AMIN OFFERS THE USG HIS GOOD OFFICES WITH REGARD TO THE ARAB COUNTRIES -- ESPECIALLY SAUDI ARABIA AND LYBIA -- WITH WHICH HE HAS VERY GOOD RELATIONS.

5. THIS EMBASSY (THE FRG EMBASSY IN KAMPALA) RECOMMENDS SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO AMIN'S PROPOSALS. IT MAY BE THAT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS HAVE DETERIORATED TO THE EXTENT THAT AMIN NEEDS FINANCIAL HELP URGENTLY. HOWEVER, IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT HE IS BEGINNING TO FEEL UNEASY ABOUT THE INCREASING MILITARY PRESENCE AND POLITICAL INFLUENCE OF THE SOVIET UNION IN UGANDA AND IS CONSIDERING A SHIFT IN HIS GENERAL POLICY. THE RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND THE US AND THE EGYPTIAN EXPERIENCES WITH THE SOVIETS MAY HAVE CONVINCED HIM THAT A MORE BALANCED POLICY MIGHT ALSO BE ADVISABLE FOR UGANDA. THEREFORE, AMIN'S MESSAGE SHOULD BE GIVEN SERIOUS THOUGHT. IN MY OPINION (FRG AMBASSADOR ELLERKMANN), THE GROWING SOVIET AND COMMUNIST INFLUENCE REQUIRES THE RE-OPENING OF THE US EMBASSY IN KAMPALA

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IF THE POSITION OF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES IN UGANDA IS NOT TO BE FURTHER WEAKENED. TO WAIT FOR A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT MIGHT PROVE UNWISE. FIRSTLY, CONTRARY TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF SOME OBSERVERS, AMIN'S REGIME COULD LAST FOR SOME TIME. SECONDLY, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A SUCCESSOR TO AMIN WOULD BE EVEN LESS ACCEPTABLE TO US. THIRDLY, IT MIGHT BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO BE PRESENT WITH AN ACTIVE EMBASSY WHEN POLITICAL CHANGES TAKE

PLACE.

6. FRG EMBASSY KAMPALA WOULD APPRECIATE A REPLY RE  
WHAT ANSWER PRESIDENT AMIN SHOULD BE GIVEN.  
END TEXT

7. PLEASE ADVISE.

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